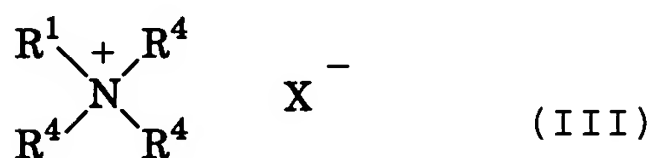
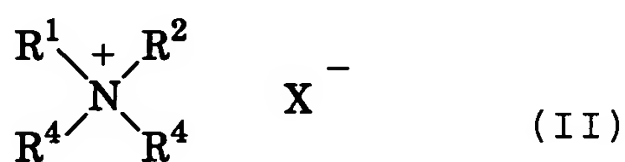
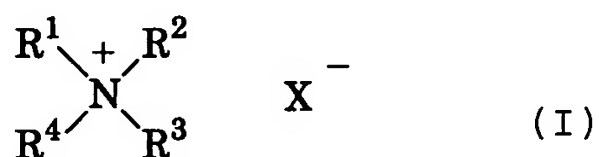


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

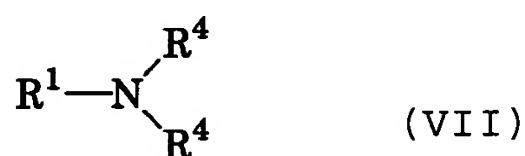
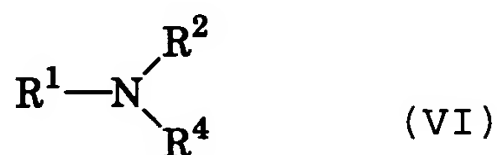
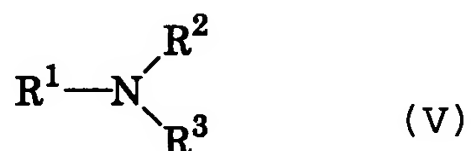
2. (Currently Amended) A softener composition comprising the following components (A') and (B'):

(A'): a cationic surfactant comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts represented by the formulae (I), (II) or (III)



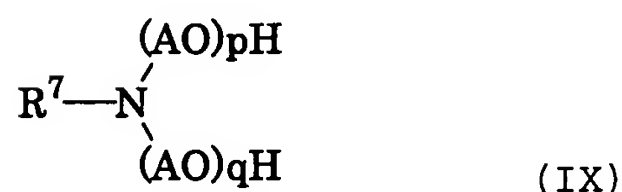
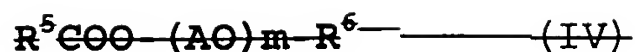
and at least one selected from the group consisting of amines or salts thereof represented by the following formulae (V), (VI) or (VII), where the ratio of the total mole number of the quaternary ammonium salts to the total molar number of amines or the salts thereof is 99.9:0.1 to 70:30 and the ratio of the quaternary

ammonium salts represented by the formula (I) to the total amount of the quaternary ammonium salts represented by the formulae (I), (II) and (III) exceeds 50 weight % and the ratio of (III) to the sum total of (I), (II) and (III) is not more than 10 %:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  represent a long-chain alkyl or alkenyl group having the total carbon atoms of 8 to 40, which are the same as or different from one another and may be intersected by an ether group, an ester group or an amide group;  $\text{R}^4$  represents an alkyl group, an alkenyl group or a hydroxy alkyl group, having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, plural  $\text{R}^4$ 's being the same as or different from one another; and  $\text{X}^-$  represents an anionic group ; and

(B') : at least one nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by formulae ~~(IV)~~, (VIII) and (IX) :



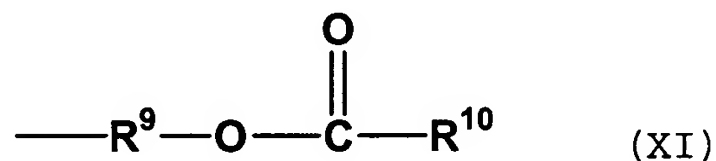
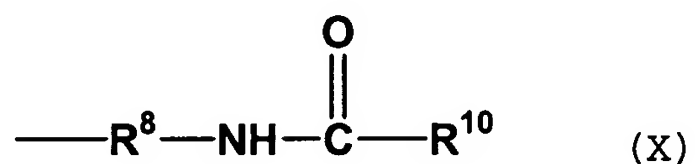
~~wherein, R<sup>5</sup> represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having the total carbon atoms of 7 to 29, R<sup>6</sup> represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, A represents an alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms and m is a number of 1 to 40 on the average value and plural A's may be the same as or different from one another, and~~

wherein, R<sup>7</sup> represents an alkyl ~~group~~, group or an alkenyl group ~~or an acyl group~~, having carbon atoms of 8 to 22, A represents an alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, n represents a number of 4 to 100 on the average value, p and q are a number of 1 to 50 on the average value, being the same as or different from each other, and plural A's may be the same as or different from one another.

3. (Original) The softener composition according to claim 2, wherein the ratio of the total mole number of the quaternary

ammonium salts represented by the formulae (I), (II) and (III) to the total mole number of the amine salts represented by the formulae (V), (VI) and (VII) is 99:1 to 80:20.

4. (Previously Presented) The softener composition of claim 2 or claim 3, wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are the same as or different from one another and are groups represented by the following formula (X) or (XI):



wherein  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are the same as or different from each other and represent an alkylene group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms and  $R^{10}CO$  represents a residual group resulting from a fatty acid having 8 to 30 carbon atoms from which a hydroxyl group has been excluded.

5. (Currently Amended) The softener composition according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein said surfactant that is a compound represented by the formula ~~(IV)~~ (VIII) or (IX) has an HLB of 9 to 17.

6. (**Currently Amended**) The softener composition according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the blending ratio of the component (A') to the component (B') which is (A')/(B') by weight ~~of~~ is 50/1 to 1/2.

7. (Previously Presented) The softener composition according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the blending ratio of the component (A') to the composition is 3 to 50 weight %.

8. (**Cancelled**)

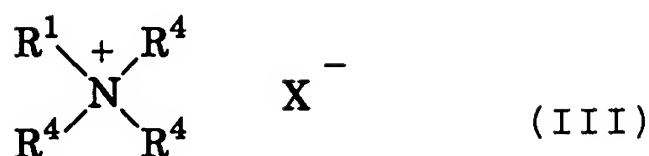
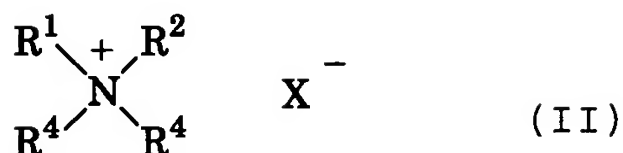
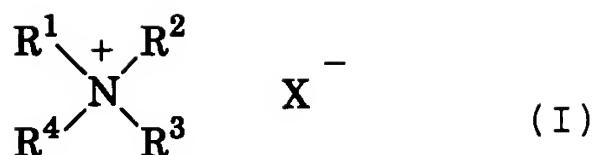
9. (**Cancelled**)

10. (**Cancelled**)

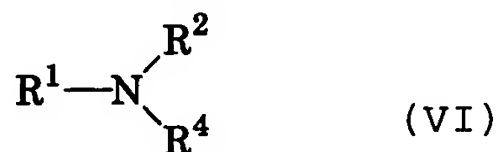
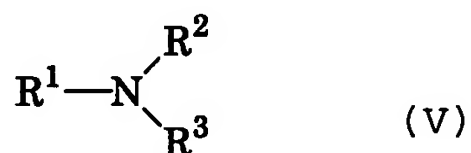
11. (**Cancelled**)

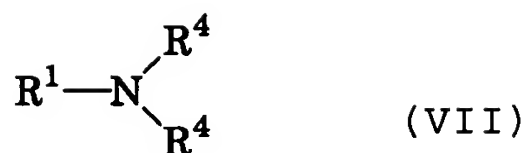
12. (**New**) A softener composition comprising the following components (A') and (B'):

(A'): a cationic surfactant comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts represented by the formulae (I), (II) or (III)



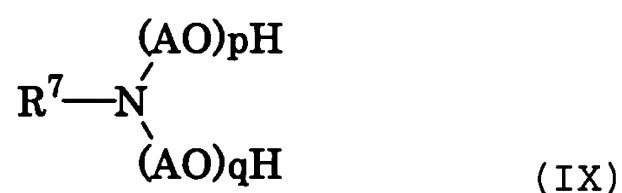
and at least one selected from the group consisting of amines or salts thereof represented by the following formulae (V), (VI) or (VII), where the ratio of the total mole number of the quaternary ammonium salts to the total molar number of amines or the salts thereof is 99.9:0.1 to 70:30 and the ratio of the quaternary ammonium salts represented by the formula (I) to the total amount of the quaternary ammonium salts represented by the formulae (I), (II) and (III) exceeds 50 weight % and the ratio of (III) to the sum total of (I), (II) and (III) is not more than 10 %:





wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  represent a long-chain alkyl or alkenyl group having the total carbon atoms of 8 to 40, which are the same as or different from one another and may be intersected by an ether group, an ester group or an amide group;  $\text{R}^4$  represents an alkyl group, an alkenyl group or a hydroxy alkyl group, having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, plural  $\text{R}^4$ 's being the same as or different from one another; and  $\text{X}^-$  represents an anionic group ; and

(B') : at least one nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by formulae (VIII) and (IX) :



wherein,  $\text{R}^7$  represents an alkyl group or an alkenyl group having carbon atoms of 8 to 22, A represents an alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, n represents a number of 4 to 100 on the average value, p and q are a number of 1 to 50 on the average

value, being the same as or different from each other, and plural A's may be the same as or different from one another; and

wherein, the blending ratio in the softener composition of the component (A') to the component (B') by weight, which is  $(A')/(B')$ , is 50/1 to 1/2, and the blending ratio of the component (A') to the softener composition is 3 to 50 weight %.

13. (New) The softener composition according to claim 2 or 12, wherein prior to a mixing with water, a total amount of the component (A') and the component (B') in the softener composition is not less than 70 weight %.